बोकारो इस्पात संयंत्र के आधुनिकीकरण के चरण-I से संबंधित "सेल" के प्रस्ताव को सरकार ने 23.7.93 को मंजूरी प्रदान कर दी है।

(ख) इस्पात प्रगलनशाला-II में सतत ढलाई विभाग के अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय पैकेज का अनुबंध मैसर्स वोइस्ट अल्पाइन को दिया गया है जो भारतीय सहयोगियों की सहयोगी आस्ट्रियन कम्पनी है।

(ग) और (घ) मैसर्स हैवी इंजीनियरिंग कारपोरेशन (एच.ई.सी.) ने मैसर्स एस.एम.एस. स्कोलेमेन सीमैग, जर्मनी और भारतीय सहयोगियों के सहयोग से अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय पैकेज अर्थात् इस्पात प्रगलनशाला-II में सतत ढलाई के लिए अपनी निविदा प्रस्तुत की थी। उनकी पेशकश को उच्च पाया गया। अतः उन्हें अनुबंध नहीं दिया गया।

Cost of Production of Sponge Iron

2567. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of production of sponge iron with present duty structure is very high;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted to compare our production cost with the production costs in other countries;

(c) if so, what are the results of such studies and what further action has been taken in the matter in the light of these studies;

(d) whether various suggestions of the manufacturers regarding reduction of customs duty on iron ore pellets and non-coking coal have been received by Government; and

(e) if so, what are the details of the different suggestions and what action has been taken on such suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Sponge iron manufacturing units are primarily in the private sector. It has been reported that the domestic sponge iron industry almost entirely uses indigenous and not imported raw materials for production of sponge iron.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) to (e) The Sponge Iron Manufacturers Association (SIMA) have been representing for reduction of customs duty on iron ore, iron ore pellets and on non coking coal. The Budget for 1994-95 had inter-alia reduced customs duty on iron ore pellets from 15% to 10% and on non-coking coal from 85% to 35%. Customs duty on iron ore pellets had further been reduced to 5% from 26.4.94. Further requests made by SIMA are under examination.

Amount Spent on Advertisement

2568. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state that the details of the total amount spent by his Ministry on advertisement given direct or through DAVP etc. during the period 1992-93 and 1993-94 language-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): No advertisement was issued directly by Ministry of Steel during the years 1992-93 and 1993-94.

The details of the total expenditure incurred on advertisement by the Ministry of Steel through DAVP during these years are given below:—

(Rupees)

Sl.No.	Language	Amount Committed
	1992-93	
1.	English	29993.00
2.	Hindi	17868.00
	Total:	47861.00
	1993-94	
1.	English	2833.00
2.	Hindi	527.00
	Total:	3360.00

Payment against the above commitments would be released by the Ministry of Steel on receipt of bills from DAVP.

अनुषंगी इस्पात उत्पादक-एककों का उत्पादन

2569. श्री राम जेठमलानी: क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में अनुषंगी इस्पात उत्पादक एककों के उत्पादन में गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान भारी कमी आई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्रमशः 1990-91 और 1993-94 के दौरान इस क्षेत्र के एककों द्वारा किए गए उत्पादन का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि गत माहों के दौरान एक प्राक्कलन-दल द्वारा कुछ ऐसी सिफारिशें की गई थी; जिनमें इस संबंध में कुछ सुविधाएं देने का आग्रह किया गया था;

(घ) यदि हां, तो प्राक्कलन-दल ने क्या-क्या सुविधाएं देने की सिफारिश की थी; और

(ङ) इन सिफारिशों पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

इस्पात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष मोहन देव): (क) और (ख) जी हां, गौण इस्पात (विद्युत चाप भट्टी) इकाई से 1990-91 में 38 लाख टन तथा 1993-94 में 27 लाख टन इस्पात का उत्पादन होने की सूचना मिली है।

(ग) से(ङ) हाल ही में सरकार द्वारा नियुक्त मूल्यांकन दल ने विद्युत चाप भट्टी इकाइयों के लिए विभिन्न उपाय सुझाए हैं जिनमें बन्द इकाइयों के आधुनिकीकरण तथा पुनर्संरचना की संभावनाओं, वित्तीय रियायतों, बिजली की सप्लाई आदि के सुझाव शामिल हैं। इनकी जांच की जा रही है।

Modernisation of Iron and Steel Ltd., Bhadravati, Karnataka

2570 SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Ltd., Bhadravati (Karnataka) a SAIL outfit is completing the modernisation-cum-expansion programme;

(b) if so, the capital outlay involved therein and broad features of the programme;

(c) whether experts from Norway visited the above steel works recently to complete the modernisation work of ferro silicon furnaces;

(d) whether this work has been taken up; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited (VISL), a subsidiary of Steel Authority of India Limited, has taken up a number of modernisation schemes including addition, modification and replacements. These schemes are in various stages of completion at present.

(b) The details of capital outlay for major schemes in progress at VISL are as under:

(i)	Installation of 530 Cubic Metre Blast Furnace	: Rs. 49.35 Crores (under revision to Rs. 66.30 crores)
(ii)	Modernisation of Ferro Silicon Furnaces	: Rs. 14.45 Crores.
(iii)	Pollution Control Schemes	: Rs. 8.90 Crores.

A number of schemes have already been implemented at VISL, e.g., Ladle Refining Furnace, Uprating of electric ore furnace, Introduction of Water cooled Panelling in Electric Arc Furnaces in SMS, etc. The outlay given above does not include expenditure on various schemes which have already been completed. The Broad features of the major schemes in progress are as follow:

(i) Installation of 530 Cubic Metre blast furnace

—Useful Volume : 530 Cubic metre
—Hot Blast Temp : 850 degree centigrade
—Expected Hot metal : 600 TPD

Once this furnace comes in operation, it will result in considerable saving in electrical energy as compared to the power intensive Electric Pig Iron furnaces. It will also facilitate in producing certain grades of alloy and special steels through LD-CCM-LRF route.

(ii) Modernisation of Ferro Silicon Unit (12 MVA; 2 furnaces)

The Modernisation of these furnaces will provide a better environment to work in, improve the furnace utilisation and reduce the specific power consumption. The modification will result in more accurate control on quality parameters of the final product. Incorporation of modular electrode system and introduction of Programmable Logic Controls (PLCs) are important features of modernisation scheme.

(iii) Air Pollution Control Schemes

In view of stringent pollution control norms as per Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, VISL has taken up the implementation of pollution control schemes in following areas:
— Ferro Silicon Furnaces (12 MVA; 2 furnaces)
— Electric Arc Furnaces in SMS (2 furnaces)
— Lime Calcination Kilns (2 kilns)